



And in order thereunto, We do Declare
Our selves to be The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of England, In which we are
Very sensible of a great weight lying on Us,
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and a great Trust reposed in Us: And although we are compassed about with much Weakness and humane Frailty, yet in Integrity (we hope) we may truly speak before the Lord, we do earnestly desire, and with his assistance shall endeavor to demean Our selves in all things, as becometh those who are set by God for the good of all: And in all, to be as tender of the Lives, Estates, Liberties, just Rights and Properties of all others, as we are of Our selves and Our Posterities, whom we expect still to be governed by Successive Parliaments.

And although we are very tender of pressing Covenants or Engagements, yet we expect and believe, That all peaceful and good People of this Commonwealth, will in all things deport themselves suitable to that Protection, which they do or may expect from Us: And in this (we hope) well grounded confidence, we thus speak to all the Lords People, both in This and the Neighbor Nations.

We should much condemn our selves of very great Unthankfulness to God, if we should not always remember, and upon all occasions make mention of his loving kindness to these Nations in the day of their trouble; In which the Lord hath already wrought so many great things, as have exceeded, not onely Our Expressions, but Our Hopes and Expectations: we are also very sensible how much, under God, we owe to those, who during the late Troubles have in any capacity wrought with the Lord, and been faithful with his People, in beginning and carrying on those great Works, which have so much filled all Our Enemies with Amazement, and Our Friends with Admiration.

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Yet we cannot but acknowledge, That we are not yet at rest, nor can believe we have yet enjoyed or seen enough to accomplish the ends of God, or satisfie the thoughts of Men for that vast expence of Blood and Treasure, which could not have been endured with any patience; but in hope, That at length those bitter pangs and throws would make some way for that long expected Birth of Peace, Freedom and Happiness, both to the Souls and Bodies of the Lords People: And although we do not see it fully brought forth, yet we do not despair but in Gods due time it shall be so; and that the dark black Clouds of the Night shall flie before the bright morning Star, and the shakings of Heaven and Earth make way for the desire of all Nations: Nay, there are many things which make Us hope the time is near at hand; for we see the Clouds begin to scatter, and the dark Shadows flie away; streams of Light appear, and the Day is surely dawning.

Neither are we wholly alone in these hopes, for if we be not very much deceived; many, if not all the People of God in all the world, are in a more then usual expectation of some great and strange Changes coming on the world, which we believe can hardly be paralel'd with any times, but those a while before the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And we do not yet know, that any Records of all the Nations in the world (we scarce except the Jews themselves) can afford such a Series of Divine Providence, or more clear Impressions of the Goings forth and Actings of God in any People, then hath been in these Nations. And we are very confident, That those who were Our Enemies did not believe it onely an

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Arm of flesh, but the finger of God, and his Almighty hand which hath been lifted up and seen so eminent and wonderful: Be silent then all flesh before the Lord, for He is raised up out of His holy Habitation, *Zech. 2. 13.*

And as we believe the Lord hath never yet slept back, or withdrawn his mighty Arm after he had gone so far, and done so much, and had made his People willing and desirous still to follow him; so we also hope his great and free goodness will not forsake his People here, or suffer them to forsake him, or to deal falsely with him in his Cause, til he hath accomplished his great works, and brought about his great Ends, whose Gifts and Callings are without Repentance. Is the Lords hand shortned that he cannot save? Is he a man that he should turn, repent, withdraw, or look back? Shall he bring to the birth, and shall he not give strength enough to bring forth? He is the same God, and changeth not. And if this be of God, it shall stand, and let every one take heed of fighting against God, this is all we say, If it be from God, let him prosper and bless it; but if not, let it fall, though we fall before it.

If indeed we stand up in our own strength or wisdom, piety or policy (that we say not Lust, Ambition, Pride or Avarice) the Lord himself will judge and finde it out; but we hope himself hath in some measure taught us his Goodness and our Evil; his strength and wisdom, but our weakness and foolishness: So that when we look upon our selves we are much afraid, and tremble at the mighty work & heavy weight before us; which we justly acknowledge far above, and quite beyond our strength to wield or poize; so that we oft cry out and say with Jehoshaphat, O Lord, We know

know not what to do, but Our eyes are towards thee.

We are also in some measure sensible how much it behobeth Us to humble Our souls often before the Lord, and to seek His face, in Whom alone is all Our Strength, and from Whom alone must all Our help proceed: And although we desire to be frequent in this Our selves (as we have already endeavored in some poor measure) yet we do so exceedingly value & fervent Prayers of Y Lords people, that we earnestly deace and intreat them all in their Approaches to the Throne of Grace, to be very mindful of Us, and the weighty work before Us. And although we acknowledge solemn times of Fasting and Prayer to be Ordinances of great use and advantage in publique or private, yet we desire to be so exceeding tender, lest we may haply inhuare any, or disturb them in their own occasions or worship of God, that we do not prescribe or limit out the pinctual Days or Times we would have set apart for this great work we desire of them.

But as now (for the short time of this present Parliament) we are set apart from Our own Occasions for the work of God and His People; so we again most earnestly desire of Them (for Whom we desire to lay out Our selves) that They also would be very faithful to God and Us; And as the Lord shall give them freedom, would give up themselves to solemn and most serious earnest Prayers and Supplications to the God of all Our strength and hopes; That He would please in much goodness more and more to make and keep Us little in Our own eyes, and of such meek and humble spirits, that He may delight to converse with Us, and to teach Us, to be yet more really self-denying, and less confident of Our selves, more
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dependant upon God, & more resigning all we are, and all we have to his holy pleasure, That he please to shew Us more of his own Will and Our way; and that he will make Us faithful and courageous under him in all that he shall teach Us for his Will and way; And that he would so unite all Our hearts to himself, that in the power and Spirit of his Son Jesus we may be all one among Our selves, and with all the people of God, who are Members of the Body of Christ, and from the same Head are all acted by the same Spirit, notwithstanding any distance, difference or seeming dissimilitude.

That in all we may be fitted and used as Instruments in the hand of God, for more full and clear revealing of the Lord Jesus, and for the right promulgation of his blessed Gospel, and for the true interest of his Kingdom, and advance thereof in the hearts of men, by real true Goodness, Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost; That all oppressing Rokes may be broken, and all Burthens removed, and the loins also of the Poor and needy may be filled with blessing.

And howeuer it shall please the Lord to do by Us, or to deal with Us, if he shall say he hath no pleasure in Us, we are most unworthy, Here we are, let Him do what is good in His own eyes; for he is holy in all his ways, & Righteous in all his works: yet we humbly desire that Our selves, and all the people of God may be still faithful and fervent with him, Wrestling in Prayers and Supplications, till he shall fully raise up his own Tabernacle, and build his Temple with his own Spirit, which he hath promised to pour upon all flesh, and raise up Governours after his own heart, and Teachers after his own Will, to make Executors
Peace,

Peace, and Officers Righteousness; That he may overcome the evil of the world with his Goodness, and fill the whole earth with his Glory, that his Will may be done on Earth as now in Heaven; That Righteousness may spring out of the Earth, and may dwell here; Righteousness and Peace may kiss each other: And that all his People may have one lip, one heart, one consent, and one shoulder to bow down and worship him; That the envy of Juda and Ephraim may be taken away, and that they may be one in the same fold with one Shepherd; that all wars may cease to the ends of the earth, and that all Nations may turn their Swords and Spears into Plough-shares and Pruning-hooks; that the Wolf may feed with the Lamb, and the Earth be full of the Knowledge of God, as Waters cover the Sea; That upon every house or Assembly may be a Cloud by day, and a Pillar of Fire by night, as is promised, and was of old upon the Tabernacle; That every one may be Holy; and the Pots, nay the Bells upon the Horses, may be holiness to the Lord.

And that in Peace and Joy we may all wait, expect and long for his glorious coming, who is King of kings, and Lord of lords, our hope and Righteousness; who is still to ride on prosperously, conquering and to conquer, till he hath subdued all his Enemies, and at length come to deliver up the Kingdom to his Father, that God may reign, and be All in All.

Tuesday the Twelfth of July, 1653.

Ordered by the Parliament, That this Declaration be forthwith Printed and Published.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

London, Printed by John Field, 1653.

Tuesday the Twelfth of July, 1653.

Ordered by the Parliament,

That this Declaration be sent to the Sheriffs of the several Counties, who are enjoyned to disperse the same.

*Hen: Scobell, Clerk of the
Parliament.*
